

This comment is to express my opposition to NAB petition 04-160. Satellite radio services, both XM (of which I'm a subscriber) and Sirius alike, offer a unique product to the consumer that broadcast radio cannot or will not provide. For that service, we invest a small sum of our discretionary income to support the programming that we like to hear--programming that doesn't necessarily follow the demographic that the few corporations which own local stations think we must fall into. As part of that investment we make into subscriber-funded services like XM Radio, we use and support the twenty traffic and weather channels offered in the lineup. Traffic and weather conditions change frequently and quickly, and cannot always be addressed in a 30- to 45-second package at the top and bottom of the hour, or "every 10 minutes on the X's."

Subscriber-based satellite TV has had the ability to offer local stations for several years. I see no difference between those channels, which give TV viewers a choice over cable TV or other means of reception, and the traffic/weather service offered by XM Radio, which also gives people greater choice over local media.

Instead of the NAB fighting this new service, they should instead encourage their member stations to adapt their programming to better suit the needs and wants of their listening public, a prime reason we satellite radio subscribers left the AM and FM broadcast dials in the first place. How is it that, a large broadcasting empire that owns as many as eight stations in a single market, can still fail to attract such a large portion of the market?

Please consider very strongly the comments of those of us who are in full support of the delivery of local information on satellite radio, and reject the NAB petition.